of paddy as tax—now that the tax is paid in cash, one pays Rs. 20. that is the land in Eraniel while the one lying in Agastiswaram taluk pays Rs. 25, though both bear the same rate of assessment. What is the explanation Sir, for this difference of Rs. 5? The explanation is that one land lies in Agastiswaram taluk while the other lies in the Eraniel taluk. This illustration alone is sufficient to show that a mistake has been committed in the process of adjusting one kotta as being equivalent to 8 paras and $6\frac{1}{2}$ edangalies.

My friend Mr. Elenkath said that Nanjinad and Idanad are alike with regard to the question of land tax. I may submit that it is not so and that is not a fact. Of course, Idanad may be heavily assessed and I do not grudge extending this 50 per cent. to Idanad also. But to say that Idanad bears the very same assessment as Nanjinad is contrary to facts. There is a lot of difference. I appeal to you, Sir, to give your kind sympathy to the peculiar conditions and system of taxation that is obtaining in Nanjinad.

President: The honourable member has not apparently observed the last remarks of the official spokesman.

Mr. V. S. Arumukham Pillai: I am coming to that. Sir, I submit that we deserve the kind sympathy of Government. As I submitted, the one stock argument of Government is that they are doing much to us. Sir, I feel confident you are the proper person to help the poor by punishing the rich for ... ...

President: Not punishing.

Mr. V. S. Arumukhom Pillai: By taking from the rich, by punishing for evation, etc. I appeal to you, Sir, to view sympathetically the condition of the ryots of Nanjinad. With the hope and confidence that you will do the right thing in the right manner, I beg to withdraw the resolution.

The resolution was, by leave, withdrawn.

ALLOTMENT OF EXPENDITURE ON COMMUNICATIONS IN RURAL AREAS.

Mr. K. R. Elankath: Sir, I beg to move the following resolution:

> *This Council recommends to the Government that in allotting expenditure for new works in the P. W. D., especially in the matter of communications in rural areas, a definite proportion be fixed on taluk-war leasis.*

The very wording of this resolution will bring to the notice of the House that my idea in moving this resolution is not the outcome of parochial considerations, with disregard to the general and greater interests of the country. The resolution only refers to a

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

[Mr. K. R. Elankath.]

small portion of the annual recurring expenditure allotted to the P. W. D. I only want that some equity thould be shown in the distribution of the amount for that item of expenditure to all taluks. In as much as certain taluks in all parts of Travancore whether South, Central or North do not get equitable treatment in this respect, this is an All-Travancore question of no less importance than any other that has to attract the attention of Government.

According to the report of the P. W. D. for 1111 the total allotment for P. W. D. works *less* charges on the Road Development Fund, comes to Rs. 30,40,525. Out of this allotment the allotment for communications is Rs. 17 lakhs or 50 per cent. of that sum. The resolution I have brought forward only requires that one-third of that amount which refers to new works be set apart for works in the various taluks. That comes to about 6 lakhs of rupees. In the next year also the amount keeps up the same proportion as the above under the various items according to the budget. When this amount is compared to the total expenditure in the budget for ordinary recurring expenditure in the P. W. D., the amount brought under the purview of this resolution keeps to a small proportion of 20 per cent. or one-fifth of the whole expenditure.

It will be noted that I do not demand that Government should neglect or need not make big provisions for big works in any particular area. For, it may be that there may be schemes of vital importance in particular areas, such as, the Pallivasal scheme or the Kodayar scheme or great works of communication such as the Neendakara bridge or the Neriamangalam bridge which have to be met as capital works. Next year Government are spending about 98 lakhs on capital expenditure. I do not want any portion of it to be distributed on a taluk-war basis and my resolution has no reference to such works at all. What I want to point out to this House and the Government by means of this resolution is that some consideration should be shown to the improvement of the rural roads with some equity in the various parts of the State. I am sure and certain that if this resolution is pressed it will meet with the approval of the whole House.

There was an argument put forward when the P.W.D. budget was discussed elsewhere that there was a larger per centage of roads in certain areas than in others especially in South Travancore. That argument was brought forward on a false calculation. The Chief Engineer has told me also that South Travancore has been very fortunate in getting a larger length of road than North Travancore Sir, he did not take into account, in calculating the per centage, several other things than the mere accident of locality or the mere

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extent of area of the length of roads. Coming to area the Southern Division has an area of 1,490 sq. miles. The total population is 14 lakhs. When we come to the High Ranges the population is not even ten per cent. of the population in Southern Division. I want to impress upon Government the fact that there may be hilly places where roads may be least necessary. When we calculate the proportion it may be slightly higher. But when we come to thickly populated areas it may be unfair to calculate the per centage merely on the basis of extent and length of roads In South Travancore there is a large extent of low land very thickly populated. There is a population of 1,300 per sq. mile. In the midland it is 800 and in the highland it is 80. I ask whose fault it is if South Travancore has more roads. As the Chief Engineer pointed out, different conditions have prevailed in South Travancore from very early times. Due to the very large assessment on land and due to the parsimonius way in which the Venad Rajas spend their revenues, the Northern taluks might have been neglected. Sir, this argument is like the argument about communal representation. It is like saying that the so-called over-represented communities should forego all their seats in order to give place for others. I would only urge that these matters should not weigh with the Chief Engineer when such allotments are made. This morning the Chief Engineer told me in reply to an interpellation that a sum of Rs. 200 was necessary at Poovar.

Mr. G. B. E. Truscott : Sir, what I said was Rs. 1,200 will be required and not Rs. 200.

Mr. K. R. Elankath : I was also surprised to hear the sum as Rs. 200.

Sir, in the matter of communications Trivandrum has no other connection with the south except by the M. C. road. If Government had put up two bridges, one at Poovar, the coastal roads would be connected from Trivandrum to Manavalakurichi. At present it is not possible for a person from Vizhinjam to go to Manavalakurichi unless he comes to Trivandrum. Similarly if a person from Kattakada wants to go to the south he has to come to the M. C. road. If there is a bridge there, it would have taken us straight across Kalial and Pechipara.

With regard to malarial road at Neyyattinkara there is provision for the construction of a new road. But because it has not been constructed we are put to very great difficulties. Recently I had to cross through that place along with a doctor to go to Chembur. The doctor was driving the car and fearing that he may go through deep ruts, he reversed the car and struck against the stem of a tree. It was fortunate that there were half a dozen coolies

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

Mr. K. R. Elankath.]

nearby and the car was pulled up. If that road had been completed, we would not have this complaint.

Then there are certain roads which bring in a large amount of revenue. For example Kuzhithuta along with Suchindram brings in a revenue of Rs. 2 lakhs by way of toll. The P. W. D. is not expected to be a revenue-making department. But from South Travancore it is getting a revenue of Rs. 2 lakhs.

Sir, near Manavalakurichi along the coast a road is very necessary. Hundreds of carts are now taking monazite. The present road there should be improved. If some equity is shown at least as regards new items of expenditure we could avoid the excuse from Government of want of funds.

Mr. P. R. Godavarma Raja : Sir, I second the resolution. It is my considered view that the funds allotted to the P. W. D. should be spent in such a way as to have an equitable distribution in the matter of expenditure on roads and bridges. In this connection I am not unmindful of the claims of the metropolis of Travancore for a larger share.

President : It being 4-30, under Standing Order 5 the meeting will come to a termination. The meeting is adjourned *sine die*.

The Council adjourned at 4-30 P. M. *sine die*.

E. I. CHACKO.
Secretary to the Sri Chitra State Council.

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